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**News Release**

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**Kekaha man sentenced to five years in prison**

LĪHU'E – On Monday, Judge Kathleen Watanabe sentenced Dylan Crowell, 24, of Kekaha, to five years in prison after his probation was revoked.

First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jennifer S. Winn represented the State of Hawai'i and Craig A. De Costa, Esq. represented Mr. Crowell, who had been in custody since May 2 in lieu of \$50,000 cash bail.

In August of last year, Crowell pled no contest to a charge of Theft in the second degree, a class C felony. On October 29, 2015, he was sentenced to nine months jail and four years HOPE Probation (Hawai'i's Opportunity Probation with Enforcement). He was released from jail on March 26 of this year.

Crowell had his first probation violation hearing on April 13 for failing to report for a urinalysis on April 4 and admitting to using methamphetamine. He was immediately sanctioned to serve 6 days jail for that violation. He was back in court on April 25 for failing to obtain a court-ordered substance abuse evaluation, failing to report for another urinalysis, failing to report to probation, and admitting to using methamphetamine. He was sanctioned to serve 30 days in jail for those violations.

On May 2, 2016, Crowell was given special permission to leave the jail to attend his grandfather's funeral. However, when Crowell returned to KCCC he tested positive for methamphetamine. As a result of this violation, the court revoked his probation and sentenced him to the open five-year prison term.

In imposing the sentence, Judge Watanabe noted that Crowell had shown absolutely no interest in obtaining the treatment he needed to live a law-abiding life.

Prosecuting Attorney Justin F. Kollar stated, "HOPE is a program that works only if the probationer is invested in their own success and willing to do the hard work needed to get clean and sober. For those unwilling to do that work, the alternative is prison. We hope this defendant will do his time and ultimately decide to make those changes in his life."

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